Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 SP-02 IO-13 EB-08 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 NASA-01 AGRE-00 COME-00 PM-04 DODE-00 ACDA-07 ISO-00 /061 W

-----141958Z 036165 /45

R 141605Z FEB 77 FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4164

CONFIDENTIAL MOSCOW 2120

DEPT PASS AGRICULTURE, FAS FOR MEEKER

DEPT PASS USDOC FOR BEWT/TDAD(KIHL) AND BEWT/OEA

DEPT PASS NASA FOR ZOOK

E.O. 11652: GDS TAGS: TSPA, UR

SUBJECT: PROPOSED SALE OF LANDSAT GROUND STATION EQUIPMENT

REF: 76 MOSCOW 19004, 76 STATE 311209, MOSCOW 1825

1. DURING A DISCUSSION AT INTERKOSMOS FEBRUARY 11 VERESHCHETIN INFORMED SCICOUNS THAT DAVID SHORTT, STANFORD TECHNOLOGY, INC. REPRESENTATIVE, HAD DISCUSSION AT INTERKOSMOS FEBRUARY 10 ON LANDSAT SYSTEM EQUIPMENT SALE. VERESHCHETIN SAID SHORTT HAD TOLD THEM NASA PASSED DRAFT NASA/INTERKOSMOS LANDSAT AGREEMENT TO ACADEMICIAN PETROV DURING LATTER'S U.S. VISIT OCTOBER 1976 (VERESHCHETIN SAID HE SUBSEQUENTLY TRIED TO RECONFIRM THIS WITH PETROV WHO STATED HE HAD NOT RECEIVED SUCH A DRAFT). EMBASSY LATER LEARNED, HOWEVER, THAT COPY OF DRAFT WAS FOUND IN SCST FILES.)

2. VERESHCHETIN SAID INTERKOSMOS HAS NO INTEREST IN LANDSAT SYSTEM, OTHER THAN THE LACIE PROJECT, AND WOULD NOT SPEND ITS FUNDS FOR LANDSAT DATA. HE NOTED THAT THE SOVIETS ARE CONFIDENTIAL

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DEVELOPING THEIR OWN EARTH RESOURCES CAPABILITIES IN
COOPERATION WITH "OTHER NATIONS" (PRESUMABLY A
REFERENCE TO THE MKF-6 CAMERA MANUFACTURED
BY THE GDR FLOWN ON THE SOYUZ 22 FLIGHT IN SEPTEMBER 1976.)
HOWEVER VERESHCHETIN IMMEDIATELY ADDED THAT INTERKOSMOS WOULD NOT
BE ADVERSE TO A LANDSAT AGREEMENT WITH NASA ASSUMING THAT THE
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE MADE A CONVINCING CASE FOR THE ACQUISITION

OF THE LANDSAT SYSTEM EQUIPMENT AND THAT AN INTERKOSMOS/NASA AGREEMENT WERE NECESSARY TO OBTAIN SUCH EQUIPMENT. HE MADE IT CLEAR THAT THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE WOULD BE PROVIDING ALL THE MONEY FOR THE LANDSAT DATA.

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Reason:
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